



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH  
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

JANET OLSZEWSKI  
DIRECTOR

June 1, 2004

Dear Medical Director:

In March of 2003, after three cases of quinolone-resistant *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (QRNG) had been identified in Ingham County, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) advised that all gonorrhea cases in Ingham and adjoining counties (Clinton, Eaton, Jackson, Livingston, and Shiawassee) be treated with a non-quinolone regimen such as ceftriaxone, cefixime, or spectinomycin. The last detected case of QRNG occurred in Ingham County in August 2003 and because of a significant decrease in detected cases, MDCH is lifting quinolone restrictions in the five counties adjoining Ingham County. Ingham County should continue to treat gonorrhea cases with a non-quinolone regimen.

In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently issued a nation-wide recommendation that all men who have sex with men (MSM), with gonorrhea, be treated with a non-quinolone regimen. Surveillance for QRNG indicates that over 5% of MSM have resistant strains, in many parts of the country, with levels nearing 14% in Michigan. For the entire report, please reference the April 23<sup>rd</sup> MMWR at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/weekcvol.html>.

Local health departments and other medical care providers across the state are advised to ask patients suspected of having gonorrhea (and their partners) about recent travel to QRNG endemic areas. If a patient reports travel to or sexual contact with residents of Asia, Hawaii, California, or Ingham County, they should be treated with a non-quinolone regimen. In order to comply with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendation that MSM not be treated with quinolones, clinicians should ask their patients about the gender of their sex partners.

All patients, regardless of residence, who do not respond to treatment should be **cultured**, and clinical laboratories processing the samples should be directed to submit *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* isolates recovered to the Michigan Department of Community Health Laboratory in Lansing for susceptibility testing. For information on submitting specimens to MDCH, call Dr. James Rudrik, Manager of the Microbiology Section of the MDCH laboratory, at 517-335-9641. STD Epidemiologist, Kathryn Macomber, is also available for consults on QRNG-related matters at 517-335-9807

Please alert the physicians, hospitals, and laboratories in your jurisdiction to these recommendations. We greatly appreciate your cooperation with our efforts to prevent further transmission of quinolone-resistant gonorrhea in Michigan.

Sincerely,

Matthew L. Boulton, MD, MPH  
Chief Medical Executive and State Epidemiologist